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**DINNER AND LUNCH COMMITTEE.**

*Chairman:* Dr. R. M. Beath. *Convener:* Dr. Hardy Greer.

**HOTELS AND LODGINGS COMMITTEE.**

*Chairman:* Dr. F. P. Montgomery. *Convener:* Dr. T. A. Kean.

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## **POST-GRADUATE COURSE FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

A FEW years ago post-graduate classes in general medicine and surgery were inaugurated by Queen's University, Belfast. These classes were confined to panel practitioners nominated by the Ministry of Labour (N.I.), and were attended with considerable success. This year it is thought that a wider sphere of usefulness might be given these classes, by opening a limited number of places to any general practitioners to wish to attend, and arrangements have been made with this object in view.

The classes will begin on Monday, 16th, and end on Saturday, 28th September, 1935, and they will be conducted by the visiting staffs of the Royal Victoria and the Mater Infirmorum Hospitals, and the teaching staff of Queen's University, Belfast. The morning sessions, from 9.30 till 12 noon, will be confined to clinical study in the wards and out-patients of the hospitals. The afternoon sessions, from 2 till 5 p.m., will be devoted to demonstrations and lectures on the more theoretical aspects of medicine and surgery, to problems of public health, to pathology, bacteriology, and biochemistry, and will be held in the Institute of Pathology, Grosvenor Road, Belfast.

Anyone interested in these classes may obtain further information from Dr. R. H. Hunter, organizing secretary, or Professor W. J. Wilson, Dean of the Medical Faculty, Queen's University, Belfast. The fee for the fortnight's course will be £5. 5s., payable in advance.

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## **LONDONDERRY MEDICAL SOCIETY**

THE fifth meeting of the session 1934-5 was held in the City and County Infirmary, at 8.15 p.m. on Friday, 29th March. The lecturer on this occasion was Mr. C. H. G. Macafee, who chose as his subject: "The Prevention of Puerperal Sepsis." There was a good attendance of members, and as the subject was one of such vital interest to a great majority of those present who were actively engaged in midwifery practice, it provoked a very lively discussion.

The April meeting had to be postponed, as the visiting lecturer, Dr. A. H. Davidson of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, found he was unable to come on the date arranged.

J. A. L. JOHNSTON, *Hon. Secretary.*

19 Clarendon Street, Londonderry.

## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—BELFAST DIVISION

THE fourth meeting of the session, on 28th March, 1935, took the form of a combined meeting with the Pharmaceutical Society. This was addressed by Dr. Tait, assistant secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society in Scotland, who took as his subject the 1934 British Pharmaceutical Codex.

The annual meeting was held on 16th May. Dr. S. B. Boyd Campbell was elected chairman for the coming session, Dr. S. P. Rea vice-chairman. The representatives and deputy representatives to the annual representative meeting were re-elected. The Chief Tuberculosis Officers for Belfast, County Down, and County Antrim were elected to the Committee, as were the chairmen and secretaries of the Local Practitioners Committees of Belfast, County Down, and County Antrim. A number of other new names were also added to the Committee.

J. C. C. CRAWFORD, *Hon. Secretary.*

360 Lisburn Road, Belfast.

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION— NORTH-EAST ULSTER DIVISION

THE fourth annual dinner of the Division was held in the Northern Counties Hotel, Portrush, on Thursday, 28th March. The chairman, Dr. R. Allison, presided, and there were about eighty members and guests presents. After the loyal toast, the "British Medical Association" was proposed by Mr. Godfrey Boyle, and Dr. W. Porter replied. The toast of "The Guests" was proposed by Dr. D. Boylan in a racy speech, and Dr. J. McLaughlin, Derry, Mr. R. O'Neill, and Mr. J. Baxter of the legal profession replied. The toast of "The Chairman" was given by Dr. W. F. Evans. Dr. Sloan Bolton proposed the health of "The Musical Guests," and Mr. Hugh Carson, Mr. A. J. W. Christie, and Mr. W. McCulloch replied. The dinner was one of the most enjoyable held by the Division.

At the meeting on Monday, 29th April, in the Cottage Hospital, Coleraine, the following medical films were shown :—(a) Resuscitation of the Newborn, by Dame Louise McIlroy, and (b) Orthopædic Exercises. It was decided to hold the annual golf meeting at Castlerock. Matron and her staff entertained the members to tea.

The annual meeting of the Division was held in the Café, Coleraine, on Monday, 27th May. The following office-bearers were elected by 1935-6 :—Chairman : Dr. J. C. M. Martin, Portrush; Vice-Chairman, Dr. G. Bateman, Coleraine; Representative to Annual Meeting : Dr. Huey, F.R.C.S., Bushmills; Representative to Northern Ireland Branch : Dr. Huey, F.R.C.S., Bushmills; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer : Dr. J. M. Hunter, Portrush; Assistant Secretary : Dr. Sloan Bolton, Portrush.

Dr. T. Adams and Dr. J. Johnston were appointed to prepare a case for the dispensary doctors, following the resolution of the Tyrone Division, and to represent the Division at Council regarding this matter.

Dr. J. W. Heney, Belfast, then read a most instructive paper on "Modern Methods in Anæsthesia." He dealt in detail with premedication, and pointed out the desirability of making induction as easy as possible for the patient. He drew attention to the serious results which often followed severe psychic shock.

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Heney for his very interesting paper, and several members asked questions at the end of the meeting. Dr. J. S. McGlade kindly provided tea before the meeting. The usual silver collection for medical charities was taken.

J. M. HUNTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

36 Eglinton Terrace, Portrush, Co. Antrim.

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—TYRONE DIVISION

At the annual general meeting held in the Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh, on Thursday, the 28th March, at 4.30 p.m., there were twelve members present.

The following officers for the year 1935-6 were unanimously elected :—Chairman : Dr. B. Lagan; Vice-Chairman : Dr. J. Chambers; Hon. Secretary : Dr. J. R. Martin; Hon. Treasurer : Dr. G. A. M. Gillespie; Representative on Branch Council : Dr. W. Lyle; Representative on Representative Body : Dr. W. Lyle; Deputy Representative on Representative Body : Dr. G. F. V. Leary, J.P.; Executive Committee : Dr. D. F. Murnaghan, Dr. R. J. Spence, Dr. A. H. T. Warnock, together with the above.

Matter concerning fees for certifying persons of unsound mind, and fees for difficult midwifery cases, and the salaries of newly appointed dispensary medical officers, was discussed. The following points were raised :—

1. **Lunacy Fees.**—Previous to the passing of the Medical Treatment Act (22 and 23 George V) by the Northern Parliament in 1932, any dispensary doctor called upon to examine an alleged lunatic was summoned to the police station, where he examined and gave evidence before two magistrates as to the mental condition of the alleged lunatic, and received a fee of at least £1. 1s. (in special cases more, up to a maximum of £2) whether he certified the alleged lunatic or not, and whilst acting he ran no personal risk, as he had complete protection by the police.

Under Section XII of the above-mentioned Act, the dispensary doctor is compelled to visit and examine the alleged lunatic at this person's own house or elsewhere in the dispensary district without any police or other protection, and to furnish a certificate as to his or her state of mind.

The doctor may have to travel twenty miles or more to do so, and, presumably, if he does not find the alleged lunatic at home, he must search for him, or return again and again till he finds him, and when so doing the doctor is afforded no protection by the police and thus runs very grave risks.

One of our members has been held up by a loaded rifle presented at him by a lunatic, and only escaped with his life by the exercise of a little tact and a large amount of luck; on another occasion he was attacked by a lunatic with a full soda-water bottle, and again by another lunatic without any weapons, so that the risk now incurred is by no means negligible.

Again, under Section LV of this Act, the examining doctor, if a dispensary doctor, will be paid a fee of 10s. 6d. for all his risk and trouble, only if the "person has been admitted as a rate-aided patient into a public mental hospital." If the doctor is not a dispensary medical

officer he gets £1. 1s., but in each case only if he certifies the patient as lunatic. This is entirely contrary to public policy, as it is an inducement to reckless or unscrupulous doctors to certify doubtful cases, and is a manifest injustice to dispensary doctors, who only get half the fee paid to other doctors without any travelling or other expenses.

2. **Difficult Midwifery Cases.**—There is a fee of £2. 2s. payable by the County Council to any doctor requisitioned by a qualified midwife to attend any difficult case, either in England or Northern Ireland. Up to the passing of Local Government Act of 14th November, 1934, this was paid without question to a dispensary doctor, unless a visiting ticket was also presented to him, but, since the passing of this Act, all claims by dispensary doctors for these fees must be forwarded to the appropriate Board of Guardians for a ruling as to the eligibility of the patient for medical relief, although it is clearly laid down in the dispensary rules and regulations that a dispensary medical officer is not bound to attend any person unless a ticket has been presented to him.

Boards of Guardians, being as a rule bent on economy when this can be effected by cutting a doctor's remuneration, will naturally decide that many people who had previously never thought of seeking medical relief are eligible for it; and the Strabane Board of Guardians has so ruled in the case of a woman on the panel, and therefore clearly ineligible.

Dispensary medical officers will be within their rights in refusing to attend on a midwife's requisition in cases where no ticket has been presented, and the lives of a mother and child may thus be sacrificed in direct consequence of this unfair discrimination against them.

3. The settlement made between the representatives of Poor Law medical officers and the Ministry of Labour was that the Poor Law medical officers' capitation rate for attendance on panel patients should be 1s. 6d. less than the standard rate to compensate in full for the diminution in his Poor Law work which was expected to result from the introduction of Medical Benefit; another proposal previously made to reduce salaries was definitely abandoned. For some reason not easy to account for, Poor Law work in most districts is not lessened—in some it has actually appreciably increased. Yet, in spite of this settlement, in almost all cases where new appointments have been made, the Guardians, with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs, have substantially reduced the standard salaries previously fixed by agreement between the different Boards of Guardians and the representatives of the Poor Law medical officers, which standard rates had the approval of the old Local Government Board or the present Ministry of Home Affairs—another gross injustice to Poor Law medical officers, and one which would not have been sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

J. R. MARTIN, *Hon. Secretary.*

Holmedene, Clogher, Co. Tyrone.

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## Nial O'Glacan of Donegal

By SAMUEL SIMMS, M.D., B.SC., D.P.H., M.R.C.P.

AMONG the few physicians of the seventeenth century whose names have been preserved from the stream of oblivion, is Nial O'Glacan of Donegal. Forgotten to-day, in his time he was one of the most distinguished members of the medical profession in Spain, France, and Italy, where for many years he had a long and distinguished career. Born in Donegal in the latter half of the sixteenth century, it is probable that he received the rudiments of his medical education from one of the families of hereditary physicians which at that time were attached to the Irish chieftains.